

SPEECH OF MR. STORER,
IN DEFENCE OF
GEN. WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.



TO WHICH IS ANNEXED,
A SHORT SKETCH OF THE
PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF HIS LIFE.

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SPEECH OF MR. STORER, OF OHIO,

IN DEFENCE OF THE CHARACTER OF

GEN. WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON,

[Delivered in the House of Representatives of the United States, April 6, 1836.]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The debate upon this bill has already been sufficiently protracted, and every member of the committee, I am satisfied, is prepared, to vote upon the question it involves. I am prepared, and have been for the last four weeks, to meet the appropriation for the naval service with my hearty sanction. I had not intended to offer any remarks on the subject under discussion, and would have been content to have remained a hearer rather than a speaker, if I had not heard, within the last few days, a tirade upon this floor, which a proper sense of public, as well as private duty, will not permit me to pass by without the most unequivocal animadversion.

Sir, I regard the navy and army, though different arms of the public defence, and requiring the adaptation of different means to their effective usefulness, yet upon one point that both must unite. I mean that *esprit du corps* which alone can elevate and sustain the character of either profession. It is vain for any Government to rely on the mere appliances of war, the physical material of an army or a navy alone; unless her soldiers and her sailors are gallant men, and their well-earned reputations are preserved, I would say hallowed in her history, every noble incentive to effort is extinguished, every glorious throb of patriotic enthusiasm is hushed. We may improve, by the expenditure of millions, our navy yards, we may increase our marine, we may erect new fortifications, and, if you please, add to the numerical strength of our army; but unless the true American spirit exists throughout the Union, unless it pervades this hall, that spirit, which rejoices in the triumph of our arms, and mingles in the holy enthusiasm that is enkindled at the recital of heroic deeds, the sun of American glory is set. Who, sir, will fight for freedom, when the only reward he can expect from his country is the neglect, the pity, or the scorn of those for whose defence he has periled his life, and expended his fortune?

Sir, this is a war among the tombs, and the hand that would pluck the laurel from the brow of the true soldier, would obliterate his epitaph. It is no matter upon whom such an assault is made, the living or the dead, he who has survived the battle shock, or he who has fallen in the thickest of the fight; better, far better would it be, that no trace of American chivalry should be found in our annals, that no record of our martial deeds should

remain for future ages, if the leaves of our history are to be thus recklessly torn out and scattered to the winds.

I have been induced to rise and ask the attention of this committee, while I reply to the remarks of the honorable gentleman from Kentucky, (Mr. HAWES,) who addressed the House on Monday last. That gentleman, in his discussion of the Kentucky resolutions on the public lands, devoted the greater part of his speech to an attack upon a distinguished citizen, who has long held a high place in the estimation of the American People. Sir, that citizen is my personal friend; he is one of my immediate constituents; above all, he is the candidate of a numerous and proud-spirited portion of his countrymen for the highest office in their gift; he stands before the people of this Union, aided by no Government press or Government patronage, his friends have no rewards to distribute, and do not act upon the principle that punishments even, are to be enforced in the day of political retribution; he and they profess to love their country more than party; and governed as they believe, by a sacred regard to the constitution and the laws, will not surrender their freedom while they have the ability to assert and defend it.

The gentleman from Kentucky attempted, though very discursively, to trace the military character of Gen. Harrison from the battle of Tippecanoe to the surrender of Proctor's army at the Thames. He did not refer to his early career in the Northwest, nor to that decisive engagement on the Maumee in 1794, when, as the aid-de-camp of Wayne, Gen. Harrison acquired an enviable reputation for valour and military talent. These events, sir, were passed over, whether because they were unknown, or did not suit the object the gentleman had in view, I cannot now decide. I leave to others the solution of the doubt, and commend the study of our early history to those who have taken the characters of our "war-worn soldiers" into their exclusive keeping. Before I close my remarks, I shall allude to these events again.

What reason does the gentleman give for his attack; so ill-timed, and I must say, so ungenerous? Why, sir, he affects to reply to a passing observation of his colleague, uttered two months ago in the debate upon "the fortification bill of the last session." Since that period the gentleman has had the floor, and might have been gratified with a hearing: but he has postponed his remarks, until it would seem some political object was to be subserved by the destruction of exalted worth and heroic valor.

The spirit of party is insatiate; it is propitiated by no sacrifice; it is softened by no appeal. Sir, it has no heart. Its altar, like the brazen image of Moloch, is always heated for its victims; and while they are writhing in burning torture, the followers of that party, like the devotees of old, cry aloud to their idol, and imprecate new vengeance upon the sufferers. Ah, sir! we may go further with our illustration: the political juggernaut of the present day, like the Indian temple, is the centre of attraction, and of infallibility also; around it the crowd thickens, and from it the faithful dispense their lessons of political wisdom—lessons learned from one common source, and taught as not to be controverted, questioned or impugned. Beneath the wheels of this cumbrous mass, some are willing to prostrate themselves for the glory of the cause, while others give impetus to its desolating

progress. And is it at the great feast of Brahma, that we are called on to witness the ceremony of party immolation? Must our eyes behold the preparation for these barbarous rites until the last pang of the victim is lost in the shouts of those who minister at the sacrifice? Must we see all this, and yet be told that we should hold our peace; that our only answer must be that of expressive silence? Sir, I cannot consent to such a system; and come what will, with a clear conscience, and an unshaken spirit, however feeble may be my power, I repudiate it as fatal to liberty, and destructive of all high and generous impulses.

The gentleman from Kentucky has imputed to Gen. Harrison a total want of military conduct in the bloody battle of Tippecanoe, and directly charges, on the authority, as he says, of the report of the times, that, trusting "to the faith of an Indian chief, he suffered his army to be drawn into a position which required the greatest bravery to prevent their overthrow;" and again, he asserts that "the General was at the head of brave troops, who failed only in shedding glory on their country for the want of a proper commander." These, sir, are his charges, gravely made upon the floor of this House, in the presence of an American Congress. [Here the Chairman reminded Mr. STORER that he was discussing a subject not before the committee; but hearing the cry of Go on, go on, from many members, Mr. S. proceeded.] I know, Mr. Chairman, that the debate is not strictly in order; I am but replying to the gentleman who took occasion to address the House upon the Kentucky resolutions, and found opportunity, as well as permission, to indulge in those attacks which I am now endeavouring to repel. He, sir, I presume, will not be allowed to take the course he did, while I am compelled to be silent. I know full well that the present period is the only one, when an opportunity will be offered me to defend the reputation of a gallant soldier. I deem it, sir, as the "*tabula in naufragio*," upon which I am to contend with the winds and waves of party violence; as the only ground where I can stand without being controlled by the caprice of party rule, or the more odious tyranny of the previous question. As it is, then, my only hope, I shall follow out the gentleman's course, and controvert, as I trust I shall, his several positions.

The battle of Tippecanoe is matter of history; it was fought 24 years ago, when the gentleman from Kentucky was a youth; and whatever are the sources of his information, let us appeal to the annals of the times—for by them at last the question must be determined. When Gen. Harrison was called into the field he was Governor of the Indiana Territory, and such was the confidence of the President of the United States, Mr. Madison, in his military qualifications, that a regiment of regular troops, and one, too, which signalized itself afterwards, was placed under his command. His little army, in addition to that regiment was composed of several companies of Indiana militia, a small corps of mounted riflemen, and a troop of horse from Jefferson county, Kentucky. The officers who led these brave men were distinguished for their talent and valor; and when, in the stillness of the night, the crack of the rifle broke upon their slumbers, they sprang with their comrades into the midst of the fight. Sir, there was no flinching there; it was a glorious, though a bloody field; when, with a force of seven hundred men, more than nine hundred well armed and desperate savages

were compelled to give way; and the fact that such perfect order and discipline prevailed throughout that scene of carnage, exhibits in the strongest light the talent and the firmness of that gallant soldier, whose voice, to use the language of one who fought at his side, was heard wherever "danger was most pressing, above the noise of the battle."

Sir, before the lamented Col. Daviess joined Gen. Harrison, he addressed a letter to him, from which I ask to read an extract:

"The object of this letter is to say that I am very desirous to be with you in this service, and certainly will attend, if I am duly informed of the day of rendezvous. It is but rare that any thing of the military kind is done; it is still more extraordinary that a gentleman of military talents should conduct matters of this kind when they *are* to be done; since the land is infested with Generals so grossly incompetent. Now, under all the privacy of a letter, I make free to tell you, that I have imagined there were two men in the West who had military talents: and you, sir, were the first of the two. It is thus an opportunity of service much valued by me. I go as a volunteer, leaving to you, sir, to dispose of me as you choose. No commission, I know, can be had; so I shall be a soldier. Perhaps some few young men may join me here and go on. If I had a full troop, I should like to be in the van-guard, very willing to be responsible for the good look out.

"J. H. DAVIESS.

"His Excellency Gov. HARRISON.

"August 24, 1811."

Such was Joseph H. Daviess, whom to name is but to honor. He fell at an early age and in the midst of his fame, and if his departed spirit could be invoked to describe the horrors of that night, I feel confident the gentleman from Kentucky would learn a lesson that he would not through all time forget; he would be told that there was one who yet survived the "fire and the smoke" of battle, who in the post of danger was the cool and intrepid soldier, and wherever his form was seen, or his voice was heard, his name was the "war cry" of his troops.

I select, sir, from McAfee's History of the War in the West, a work published in Kentucky, and whose author is a warm supporter of the present administration, a work composed and published at the conclusion of that war, the following statement, which I ask the gentleman from Kentucky specially to peruse: "An idea was propagated by the enemies of Governor Harrison, after the battle of Tippecanoe, that the Indians had forced him to encamp on a place chosen by them, as suitable for the attack they intended. The place, however, was chosen by Major Taylor and Clarke, after examining all the environs of the town; and when the army of Gen. Hopkins was there in the following year, they all united in the opinion that a better spot to resist Indians, was not to be found in the whole country."

To sustain these assertions, I offer the certificates of Gen. Taylor, of Indiana, and Col. Snelling, formerly Captain in the 4th Infantry:

"The above account, taken from McAfee's History of the War in the Western Country, as it relates to the situation of the camp occupied by the army under the command of Governor Harrison, on the night between the 6th and 7th of November, 1811, is entirely correct. The spot for encamp-

ment was selected by Colonel Clarke (who acted as brigadier major to Gen. Boyd) and myself. We were directed by Gov. Harrison to examine the country up and down the creek until we should find a suitable place for an encampment. In a short time we discovered the place on which the army encamped, and to which it was conducted by us. No intimation was given by the Indians of their wish that we should encamp there, nor could they possibly have known where the army would encamp until it took its position. The only error in the above extract is, in saying that Major Clarke and myself were sent back, by which it would appear that the army retrograded to take up its encampment. This is not the fact. The army filed off in front of the town, at right angles to the Wabash, to reach its encampment. It has ever been my belief that the position we occupied was the best that could be found any where near us, and I believe that nine-tenths of the officers were of that opinion. We did not go on the Wabash above the town, but I am certain that there was no position below it that was eligible for an encampment.

“WALLER TAYLOR.”

“February 22, 1817.”

“My situation as a platoon officer prevented my having a personal knowledge of the transactions above related, so far as respects the selection of the encampment of the army under General Harrison, by his staff officers; but, having carefully perused the extract from McAfee’s history, I have no hesitation in saying that I believe it to be substantially correct; and that, in my opinion, the ground on which the army encamped combined the advantages of wood, water, and a defensible position, in a greater degree than any other ground in that section of the country; the ground on the Wabash was wholly unfit, the highland being destitute of water, and the interval (or bottom land as it is called) being without wood, and incapable of being defended.

“J. SNELLING *Lieut. Col. 6th Infantry.*

“WASHINGTON, February 28, 1817.”

I trust the committee are now satisfied that the encampment at Tippecanoe was not selected by the advice of an Indian chief, and I fear that the remarks of the gentleman from Kentucky, on every other point to which he has referred, will be found to be sustained by no historical evidence. Sir, has the gentleman read the annals of his own State, and forgotten the tribute that his countrymen paid to the hero of Tippecanoe in December 1811? Yes, when, by a solemn vote of her Legislature, while her members were in mourning for the loss of Daviess, Owen, and other gallant spirits who fell, fighting for their country, a resolution was passed, to which I beg leave to refer.

“Resolved, That in the late campaign against the Indians on the Wabash, Gov. W. H. Harrison has, in the opinion of this Legislature, behaved like a hero, a patriot, and a general; and that for his cool, deliberate, skilful and gallant conduct, in the late battle of Tippecanoe, he well deserves the warmest thanks of the nation.”

This was the language of the boldest and the best of Kentucky’s chivalry, while her legislative halls were hung with mourning, and when, if any

unkind feeling existed against General Harrison, it would have been displayed. It was the warm, the enthusiastic expression of generous feeling, spurning the influence of those who would check its course, and boldly asserting what it honestly believed. Will the gentleman expunge this record? will he blot out a page from Kentucky's history, and destroy one of the monuments that his own proud commonwealth has erected to the soldier and the patriot? I cannot believe it.

But, sir, I would not confine the attention of this committee, more especially of the honorable gentleman, to the recorded approbation of his own State. I must read another homily to him, in the form of a certificate of the officers of the 1th regiment:

"The battle of Tippacanoe having terminated a campaign which lead us to victory and honor, it is with pain we behold aspersions in the public prints aiming to destroy the confidence of our country in our late commander-in-chief.

"Gov. Harrison having relinquished the command of the army lately employed against the Indians, and probably as an officer left us forever, the present statement cannot be attributed to servile flattery, but to the true and honest expression of our real sentiments in favor of a general whose talents, military science, and patriotism entitle him to a high rank among the worthies of the Union, and whom we consider injured by the gross misrepresentations of the ignorant or designing, who are alike inimical to the best of governments and the best of men.

"We therefore deem it necessary to state, as incontestible facts, that the commander-in-chief, throughout the campaign and in the hour of battle, proved himself the soldier and the general; that on the night of the action, by his order, we slept on our arms and rose on our posts; that notwithstanding the darkness of the night, and the most savage cunning of the enemy in eluding our sentries, and rapidity in rushing through the guards, we were not found unprepared; that few of them were able to encounter our camp, and those few doomed never to return; that in pursuance of his orders, which were adapted to every emergency, the enemy were defeated with a slaughter almost unparalleled among savages. Indeed, one sentiment of confidence, respect and affection towards the commander-in-chief pervaded the whole line of the army, which any attempt to destroy we shall consider as an insult to our understandings and an injury to our feelings.

"Should our country again require our services to oppose a civilized or savage foe, we should march under the command of Gov. Harrison, with the most perfect confidence of victory and fame.

JOEL COOK, capt. 4th inf'y.

JOSIAH SNELLING, capt. 4th U. S. inf'y.

R. C. BARTON, capt. 4th inf'y.

O. G. BURTON, lieut. 4th inf'y.

NATH. F. ADAMS, lieut. 4th reg't. inf'y.

CHARLES FULLER, lieut. 4th regt.

A. HAWKINS, lieut. 4th inf'y.

GEORGE GOODING, 2d lieut. 4th inf'y.

H. BURCHISTEAD, ensign 4th regt. U. S. inf'y.

JOSIAH D. FOSTER, surgeon 4th inf'y.

HOSEA BLOOD, act. assist. surg. 4th inf'y."

"On the 7th and 27th of December, 1811, the several corps of Indiana and Kentucky volunteers had meetings and passed the most spirited resolutions, approbatory of the skill, talent and bravery of their general; and both branches of the Territorial Government of Indiana, by their President and Speaker, addressed their Governor in a style and manner which bespoke their high estimate of his services; and is there an Indianian who lived in those perilous times, whose bosom will not echo back the same exalted sentiment? I appeal to the gentleman from that State, now a member of this house,—(Mr. CARR.) who bore a part in that battle-field, and ask him to sustain me in the assumption I make in behalf of the feeling of his fellow-citizens.

But before I leave this division of my subject, I cannot refrain from citing a passage from an unpretending volume, written by a private soldier of the 4th regiment. Sir, it is the unvarnished story of a brave man, composed at a distance from his general, and under no other influences than truth and justice; and I commend it to all who hear me, more particularly to the delegation from New-Hampshire, as a citizen of that State is the author of the production. It was published in Keene, in 1816, by Adam Walker, and, at the 31st page, may be found the extract to which I allude:

"General Harrison received a shot through the rim of his hat. In the heat of the action his voice was frequently heard and easily distinguished, giving his orders in the same calm, cool and collected manner with which we had been used to receive them on a drill or parade. The confidence of the troops in the general was unlimited, and his measures were well calculated to gain the particular esteem of the 4th regiment. All kinds of petty punishments, inflicted without authority, for the most trifling errors of the private soldier, by the pompous sergeant, or the insignificant corporal, were at once prohibited. A prohibition of other grievances which had too long existed in this regiment, at once fixed in the breast of every soldier an affectionate and lasting regard for their general, the benefit of which was fully realized in the conduct of the troops in the engagement, as well as throughout the campaign."

I have thus produced the evidence of the subaltern and the private soldier, the historian, and the legislative record; and now I would ask the gentleman, upon what does he rely to make good his charges? Where will he point for that common report to which he has referred to sustain his attack? Sir, the reputation of Gen. Harrison was assailed immediately after the victory had been achieved; and by whom was the warfare commenced, by whom carried on, and how did it terminate? Need I to recall the proofs I have already exhibited, that this committee may know the length and the breadth of that persecution which a noble mind was compelled to encounter; or shall I rather ask them to mark how triumphantly he passed through the ordeal, and came out from the fiery trial unscathed?

"As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form,
Swells from the vale, and midway leaves the storm,
Though round its breast the gathering clouds are spread,
Eternal sunshine settles on its head."

When General Harrison returned to Vincennes, it was not to assume his civil power only; the whole territory was threatened by the savage tribes,

who hung about its frontier. The celebrated Tecumseh had planned a system of operation, in conjunction with the chiefs of the South and North-western Indians, which required the most profound knowledge of Indian policy to counteract; and in this new field, though not to use the expressive language of the gentleman, in the midst of "fire and smoke," Gen. Harrison displayed his sagacity in an eminent degree. During the ensuing winter and spring, he made every preparation that the defence of the territory required, and had so completely succeeded in subduing the turbulent spirit of the Indian tribes by which it was surrounded, that, on the 10th of May, 1812, a grand council was held at Mississineway, where thirteen tribes were represented by their chiefs. The result of this meeting was the apparent restoration of all former friendship and intercourse, though, on the part of some of the tribes, the pledge was afterwards broken.

When the news of war with Great Britain reached the West, the hero of Tippecanoe was at his post; it found him ready to gird on again his sword. Early in the month of August, the Governor of Kentucky sent to him by express, requesting his presence at Frankfort without delay. On his arrival at that place, he was immediately consulted as to the disposition of that part of the quota of Kentucky militia destined to protect the Northwest; and though these troops were commanded by an officer of high rank in his own State, yet, following out the burst of public sentiment, and by the advice of Shelby, Greenup, Clay, Todd, Colonel R. M. Johnson and General Hopkins, Governor Scott, who had been a revolutionary soldier, conferred upon General Harrison the brevet commission of Major General in the Kentucky militia, and appointed him to lead her brave troops to the frontier.—This distinguished honor, thus bestowed long after the battle on the Wabash had been fought, and when the reports prejudicial to his military character, to which the gentleman alluded, if ever well founded, were most prevalent, was the proudest tribute ever paid to merit. It was no ordinary compliment to be selected by a gallant and high-spirited people as their leader and their rallying point; a people who never knew danger except to overcome it; who were exquisitely alive to all those noble impulses which, while they extend a generous confidence, are yet tenacious of the slightest innovation upon individual honor. If they were now in this hall, what answer would they return to these charges? What mingled emotions of regret and indignation would rise in their bosoms, to find their estimate of talent, and courage, and patriotism, so utterly valueless. Happy would it be for those who survive, if their generous confidence was not now reproached, and their devotion to their country's service suspected; and happy, thrice happy is it for the dead that detraction cannot enter their prison-house. I hold it that such must be the predicament of Kentucky's patriotic sons, if the assertions of the honorable gentleman are sustained by evidence. It must come to this, that they held forth to the world one who was worthy to lead her armies and preserve her fame, or that they voluntarily bowed down to humiliating self-degradation. Sir, I cannot doubt the purity of their motives, and the heroic spirit by which they were inspired—they knew the man to whom they deputed power; they knew his ability, his integrity, and his chivalrous feeling. They acted not merely for the present age, but for posterity, and their conduct will stand out, in all after time, conspicuous among the monuments of our national glory.

Mr. Chairman, we are told of the slaughter at the river Raisin, and asked with emphasis, why did not Harrison come to the rescue? He was near that field of carnage, said the gentleman, "with a competent force," and yet he hesitated to proceed. Let us recur to the history of the day: On the 22d of January, 1813, the bloody scenes of the Raisin occurred; on the 20th of the same month Gen. Harrison arrived at the rapids of the Maumee; Gen. Winchester had already left the Rapids, the troops remaining there being under the command of Gen. Payne. Immediately after his arrival, Gen. Harrison despatched Capt. Hart, the inspector general, to Winchester, with the intelligence of the movements in his rear, and instructed him to maintain his position. The next day Winchester sent a message to Harrison, that if his force was increased to one thousand or twelve hundred men he would be able to sustain his ground. On the same morning a detachment, under Gen. Payne, was ordered to Frenchtown, which, with a battalion already on its march, under Major Cotgrove, made the force stronger than Gen. Winchester required. Sir, they were one day too late. On the 22d, at 10 o'clock, the news of the attack reached the Rapids, and immediately the whole force was put in requisition, and a movement made to the Raisin; in a short time it was ascertained that the defeat had been total, and a council of general and field officers being held, it was decided to be imprudent and unnecessary to proceed farther. The safety of the frontier from an irruption of an enemy flushed with victory required that the troops should be concentrated upon the most exposed points, and it would have been the height of folly for the commanding general to have thrown himself, with the small force under his control, in the face of an enemy more numerous and better equipped than his own army. Mr. Chairman, a gallant officer served in that campaign, and afterwards fell on the Niagara frontier, in the glorious sortie from Fort Erie. I mean Col. Wood, who, to use the language of Gen. Brown, in his official letter, "died as he had lived, without a feeling but for the honor of his country, and the glory of her arms." That officer, sir, has left the following testimony in his private journal, now in the library at West Point, and which I extract from McAfee, who had access to it. Speaking of the tragedy of the Raisin, he says:

"This news, for a moment, paralyzed the army, or at least the thinking part of it, for no one could imagine that it was possible for him, Gen. Winchester, to be guilty of such a hazardous step. Gen. Harrison was astonished at the imprudence and inconsistency of such a measure, which, if carried into execution, could be viewed in no other light than as attended with certain and inevitable destruction to the left wing. Nor was it a difficult matter for any one to foresee and predict the terrible consequences which were sure to mark the result of a scheme no less rash in its conception than hazardous in its execution."

With respect to reinforcing the detachment, a recurrence to facts proves that Harrison is not blameable, as he made every exertion in his power to support it. It was not until the night of the 16th, that he received the information, indirectly, through Gen. Perkins, that Winchester had arrived at the rapids. By the same express he was advised that Winchester *meditated* some unknown movement against the enemy. Alarmed at this information, he immediately made every exertion which the situation of his

affairs required. He was then at Upper Sandusky, his principal deposit of provisions and munitions of war, which is sixty miles from the rapids by the way of Portage river, and seventy-six by the way of Lower Sandusky, and about thirty-eight more from the river Raisin. He immediately sent an express direct to the rapids for information; gave orders for a corps of three hundred men to advance with the artillery, and escorts to proceed with provisions, and in the morning he proceeded himself to Lower Sandusky, at which place he arrived in the night following, a distance of forty miles, which he travelled in seven hours and a half, over roads requiring such exertion that the horse of his aid, Major Mukill, fell dead on their arrival at the fort. He found there that General Perkins had prepared to send a battalion to the rapids, in conformity with a requisition from Gen. Winchester. That battalion was despatched the next morning, the 18th, with a piece of artillery; but the roads were so bad that it was unable, by its utmost exertions, to reach the river Raisin, a distance of seventy-five miles, before the fatal disaster.

General Harrison then determined to proceed to the rapids himself, to learn personally from General Winchester what were his situation and views. At four o'clock on the morning of the 19th, while he still remained at Lower Sandusky, he received the information that Col. Lewis had been sent with a detachment to secure the provisions on the River Raisin, and to occupy, with the intention of holding, the village of Frenchtown. There was then but one regiment and a battalion at Lower Sandusky, and the regiment was immediately put in motion, with orders to make forced marches for the Rapids: and General Harrison himself immediately proceeded for the same place. On his way, he met an express with intelligence of the unsuccessful battle which had been fought on the preceding day. The anxiety of General Harrison to push forward, and either prevent or remedy any misfortune which might occur, as soon as he was apprized of the advance to the river Raisin, was manifested by the great personal exertions which he made in this instance. He started in a sleigh with Gen. Perkins to overtake the battalion under Cotgrove, attended by a single servant. As the sleigh went very slow, from the roughness of the road, he took the horse of his servant and pushed on alone. Night came upon him in the midst of a swamp, which was so imperfectly frozen that the horse sank to his belly at every step. He had no resource but to dismount and lead his horse, jumping himself from one sod to another, which was solid enough to support him. When almost exhausted, he met one of Cotgrove's men coming back to look for his bayonet, which he said he had left at a place where he had stopped, and for which he would have a dollar stopped from his pay unless he recovered it. The general told him he would not only pardon him for the loss, but supply him with another, if he would assist him to get his horse through the swamp. By his aid, the general was enabled to reach the camp of the battalion.

Very early on the morning of the 20th, he arrived at the Rapids, from which place Gen. Winchester had gone on the preceding evening, with all his disposable force, to the river Raisin. Nothing more could now be done, but wait the arrival of the reinforcements from Lower Sandusky.

The original force of Gen. Winchester had been about thirteen hundred.

and all but three hundred were now gone in advance. The battalion from Lower Sandusky was hurried on as fast as possible; and as soon as the regiment arrived, three hundred and fifty strong, on the evening of the 21st, the balance of Winchester's army was ordered to proceed, which they did next morning under Gen. Payne. The force now advancing exceeded, by three hundred, the force deemed sufficient by General Winchester to maintain his position. But whether sufficient or not, it is evident, from the preceding statement of facts, that no more could be sent, and that greater exertions could not be made to send it in time. Instead of censure being due to General Harrison, he merits praise for his prudent exertions, from the moment he was apprized of Winchester's arrival at the Rapids.

"What human means," says Col. Wood, "within the control of General Harrison, could prevent the anticipated disaster, and save that corps, which was already looked upon as lost, as doomed to inevitable destruction? Certainly none; because neither orders to halt, nor troops to succor him, could be received in time, or at least that was the expectation. He was already in motion, and General Harrison still at Upper Sandusky, seventy miles in his rear. The weather was inclement, the snow was deep, and a large portion of the black swamp was yet open. What could a Turenne, or an Eugene have done, under such a pressure of embarrassing circumstances, more than Harrison did?"

Sir, the gentleman is correct when he says that the massacre at the Raisin covered Kentucky with gloom. Not that her brave people desponded or faltered in their purposes; but the sundering of so many ties that bound kinsmen, and friends, and neighbors together; the desolation produced by so many blighted hopes, so many unrequited expectations, while they caused the heart to throb and the tear to start, did not quench that stronger feeling which rose high above every other, and cried out for retributive vengeance.

And to whom did the fathers, the sons, and the brothers, of the victims of that bloody field look for their leader? Under whom did the people of Kentucky, burning to revenge savage, and more than savage—I mean British barbarity—place themselves, as it were, en masse? Sir, they confided still to their old general; they did not impute to him any of the blame, any of that military delinquency, which are now charged to have been justly attributable to their then chosen commander. Need I refer to the three thousand gallant men who, in the following April, marched under his banner? Can I forget to mention Green Clay, their general, and Boswell, and Dudley, and Caldwell and Cox, who led the Regiments that composed this elite of old Kentucky? Shall I rather, as the proof is so clear, and the occasion is so apposite, ask the gentleman to read a communication from his colleague, who was brave amongst the bravest in the conflicts of the Northwest. On the 4th of July, 1813, Col. Richard M. Johnson addressed a letter to General Harrison, from which I ask the committee to permit me to read an extract:

"Two great objects induced us to come: First, to be at the regaining of our own territory, and Detroit, and at the taking of Malden; and, secondly, to serve under an officer in whom we have confidence. We would not have engaged in the service without such a prospect—we did not want

to serve under cowards nor traitors, but under *one*, who had proved himself to be *wise, prudent and brave.*"

Mr. Chairman, the earth has closed over the martyred heroes who fell at the Raisin—but that field of slaughter can never be forgotten. Long, long after the present generation shall have slept with their fathers, the brave spirits of other times will, when they visit the banks of that mournful river, recall the murderous scenes of the terrific day, when, in the depth of a northern winter, contending not merely with the elements, but an overwhelming force, a Spartan band nobly sustained the American character—when in the midst of perils the most stern, while death in all the horrid forms of savage cruelty met him on every side, the soul of the backwoods volunteer rose superior to the conflict, and coolly prepared for the issue, however fearful. Yes the field of Frenchtown is already consecrated ground—no monument is there to point out the resting place of the brave, but the traveller, while musing among the few traces that yet mark the spot, involuntarily staves his footsteps, and expresses the beautiful sentiment inscribed upon the tomb of a foreign warrior :

"Siste viator, herosa calcas !"

Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Kentucky has alluded to Fort Stephenson, and, sir, the brilliant, I might say, unparalleled defence of that fortress by Major Croghan, is a bright page in our annals—it is now too late to dim its lustre. Whatever may have occurred between Gen. Harrison and a subaltern officer, in the strict discharge of military duty, has been passed upon and fully appreciated by the American people for more than twenty years. There were those, who reflected on General Harrison for his conduct in the very delicate position in which he was placed by the refusal of Croghan to obey his orders; orders, sir, that were the result of a council of war composed of officers who afterwards distinguished themselves on the frontier; but the true history of the transaction explained the course that was pursued and fully justified it. Permit me to refer to a letter, which I would commend the gentleman to study, before he again indulges in the strain he has already pursued.

LOWER SENECA TOWN, August 29, 1813.

The undersigned, being the general, field, and staff officers, with that portion of the Northwestern army under the immediate command of General Harrison, have observed with regret and surprise, that charges, improper in the form as in the substance, have been made against the conduct of General Harrison during the recent investment of Lower Sandusky. At another time, and under ordinary circumstances, we should deem it improper and unmilitary thus publicly to give any opinion respecting the movements of the army. But public confidence in the commanding general is essential to the success of the campaign, and causelessly to withdraw or to withhold that confidence, is more than individual injustice; it becomes a serious injury to the service. A part of the force of which the American army consists, will derive its greatest strength and efficacy from a confidence in the commanding general, and from those moral causes which accompany and give energy to public opinion. A very erroneous idea, respecting the

number of the troops then at the disposal of the general, has doubtless been the primary cause of those unfounded impressions. A sense of duty forbids us from giving a detailed view of our strength at that time. In that respect, we have fortunately experienced a very favorable change. But we refer the public to the general's official report to the Secretary of War, of Major Croghan's successful defence of Lower Sandusky. In that will be found a statement of our whole disposable force; and he who believes that with such a force, and under the circumstances which then occurred, General Harrison ought to have advanced upon the enemy, must be left to correct his opinion in the school of experience.

On a review of the course then adopted, we are decidedly of the opinion that it was such as was dictated by military wisdom, and by a due regard to our own circumstances, and to the situation of the enemy. The reasons for this opinion it is evidently improper now to give, but we hold ourselves ready at a future period, and when other circumstances shall have intervened, to satisfy every man of its correctness who is anxious to investigate and willing to receive the truth. And with a ready acquiescence, beyond the mere claims of military duty, we are prepared to obey a general whose measures meet our most deliberate approbation, and merit that of his country.

LEWIS CASS, Brig. Gen. U. S. A.
 SAMUEL WELLS, Col. 17th R. U. S. I.
 THOS. D. OWINGS, Col. 28th R. U. S. I.
 GEORGE PAULL, Col. 17th R. U. S. I.
 J. C. BARTLETT, Col. Q. M. G.
 JAMES V. BALL, Lieut. Col.
 ROBERT MORRISON, Lieut. Col.
 GEORGE TODD, Maj. 19th R. U. S. I.
 WILLIAM TRIGG, Maj. 28th R. U. S. I.
 JAMES SMILEY, Maj. 28th R. U. S. I.
 RD. GRAHAM, Maj. 17th R. U. S. I.
 GEO. CROGHAN, Maj. 17th R. U. S. I.
 L. KUKILL, Maj. and Ass't Insp. Gen.
 E. D. WOOD, Maj. Engineers.

Sir, what language did the people of Kentucky hold, after all the difficulties I have referred to had transpired? Did they regard the imputations now made upon Gen. Harrison as well founded? No, sir, their language was that of strong confidence, not of doubt or suspicion—of a deep conviction that Gen. Harrison possessed all the qualities of the head and the heart to command their implicit reliance. The venerable Shelby—and is there a Carolinian here whose soul does not kindle at the name of King's mountain? he, the hero and the patriot, placed himself under the command of that man who was not in the "fire and smoke of Sandusky." And need I mention Henry and Desha, Allen, Caldwell, King, Chiles and Trotter, of Adair and Walker, of Johnson, McDowell and Barry, and Crittenden, who, with their chivalrous troops, fought under his banner?

Sir, I appeal to the gentleman's colleague, (Mr. Chambers,) who bore an honorable part in the events of that period, to sustain me. He was the aid-de-camp of Harrison; and is, thank Heaven, a living witness to this

committee that his venerated General was all that his country could ask to sustain her safety and her honor. To another colleague of the gentleman, (Mr. Underwood,) who bears upon his body an honorable wound received in Dudley's fatal rencontre, on the Maumee, I would also refer; and, before I leave this part of my remarks, permit me to ask the gentleman's other colleague, (Col. Johnson,) who, I have already said, was always at the post of danger, to correct me, if I am in error in so important, so vital a matter, as the reputation of a soldier. On his recorded evidence, and his own generous and just acknowledgment, I would cheerfully rest.

Mr. Chairman, we are told that, at the battle of the Thames, Gen. Harrison was in the rear of his army, apparently not anxious to expose himself, in other words, that he was not inclined to hazard himself in a speedy pursuit of the British army; but, sir, we are furnished with no proof; we are pointed to no cotemporary writer who records the fact. Let me commend the gentleman again to go back to the annals of those days, and improve his recollection and his taste: let me ask him to study, while he is thus engaged, the exalted sentiment, the high-wrought patriotism, that "breathe and burn" throughout the following extracts. Governor Shelby, in a letter to General Harrison, dated Frankfort, April 21, 1816, says:

"FRANKFORT, April 21, 1816.

"During the whole of this long and arduous pursuit, no man could make greater exertions or use more vigilance than you did to overtake Proctor, whilst the skill and promptitude with which you arranged the troops for battle, and the distinguished zeal and bravery you evinced during its continuance, merited and received my highest approbation.

"In short, sir, from the time I joined you to the moment of our separation, I believe no commander ever did or could make greater exertions than you did to effect the great objects of the campaign. I admired your plans, and thought them executed with great energy; particularly your order of battle, and arrangements for landing on the Canada shore, were calculated to inspire every officer and man with a confidence that we could not be defeated by any thing like our own number.

"Until after I had served the campaign of 1813, I was not aware of the difficulties which you had to encounter as commander of the northwestern army. I have since often said, and still do believe, that the duties assigned to you on that occasion, were more arduous and difficult to accomplish than any I had ever known confided to any commander; and, with respect to the zeal and fidelity with which you executed that high and important trust, there are thousands in Kentucky, as well as myself, who believed it could not have been committed to better hands.

"With sentiments of the most sincere regard and esteem, I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

ISAAC SHELBY.

Major General WILLIAM H. HARRISON."

Commodore Perry, who joined the army after the victory on Lake Erie, as the General's volunteer aid, in a note, dated Newport, August 18, 1817, expresses himself in these unqualified terms:

“NEWPORT, August 18, 1817.

“Although I have little or no pretensions to military knowledge as relates to an army, still I may be allowed to bear testimony to your zeal and activity in the pursuit of the British army under Gen. Proctor, and to say, the prompt change made by you in the order of battle on discovering the position of the enemy, always has appeared to me to have evinced a high degree of military talent. I concur most sincerely with the venerable Governor Shelby, in his general approbation of your conduct (as far as it came under my observation) in that campaign.

With great regard, I am, my dear sir, your friend,

O. H. PERRY.

Major Gen. W. H. HARRISON.”

Sir, I have found these testimonials in the life of Gen. Harrison, published in 1844, by Moses Dawson, Esq., who is, on this subject, a most disinterested and competent witness. He is now, and always has been, an ardent, a consistent supporter of the present administration; he came not into the party at the eleventh hour, but, acting upon his original principles, has ever defended the fame of the brave man, whose military services he has so faithfully recorded.

The issue of the battle on the Thames, is known to the world: it sealed the permanent success of the American arms in the Northwest; it rescued our territory from British dominion, and drove back to the forest those countless savages who had so long desolated our frontier. If, sir, I were called on to select a period during the late war, when the spontaneous burst of a whole people's gratitude was heard in the village, the town, or the city, wherever there was a heart to feel, and a tongue to speak, I would point to those more than Roman triumphs which awaited the conqueror of Proctor.

The gentleman from New York, now in my eye, (Mr. Lee,) cannot have forgotten the illumination at Old Tammany, the beautiful transparency in front of the venerable wigwam, and the high-wrought feeling of that hour, when the grand sachem, and the whole tribe of the true *democratic* buck-tails, held their patriotic council in the autumn of 1813. I ask him, if he was not one of that company, and when the cup was pledged to valor and talent, his own soul was not kindled with the common enthusiasm that pervaded every bosom? Sir, the republicans of that day paid honor to whom honor was due; they were the true American spirits who had with pious care, collected the remains of our valiant countrymen, which had bleached for more than thirty years on the shores of Long Island, and bestowed, though late, the holy rite of sepulture upon the victims of the *Jersey prison-ship*. They were the friends of Harrison; and their hearts responded to every noble, every glorious impulse. It is not for me to say how many of that veteran corps retain their rank, or even place, in the wigwam; if the ancient race has become extinct, and the months of “fruits and of flowers” are appropriated by more devoted, more sincere, and more disinterested followers of the patron saint, it must be matter of high congratulation; but if that hall is now a mere hunting ground, where the spoils of the chase are the only rewards, and the destruction of all who do not unite in the sentiment as a first principle, then, indeed, the founders of the brotherhood mistook

the nature of Man, and established an institution, to which the power of a Spanish inquisition bears but a faint resemblance.

Mr. Chairman, I ask the members of the Key-Stone state to recall the feeling of their fellow-citizens at that interesting era: to peruse, once more, the description of those unsought honours which a virtuous people bestowed upon exalted merit. Can they forget the 21st of October, 1813, when their beautiful city presented, amid the darkness of the night, a sublime, a glorious spectacle? * Sir, the inscriptions that might then have been read, were not of blind devotion to any man, much less of devotion to party; they stood out, in letters of fire, and proclaimed the names of Harrison and Perry.

But I have not done. On the 9th of December, 1813, a public entertainment was tendered to Gen. Harrison by the people of Philadelphia, and I must be permitted the gratification to read the short but truly republican address with which he prefaced the sentiment that such an occasion is expected to call forth: †

"Gentlemen," said General Harrison, "permit me to offer a volunteer toast, and briefly to state the motive which prompts me to take one of the regular toasts of the day, as a means of communicating my opinion. Believing, as I do, that a sentiment is gaining ground unfriendly to republicanism, and injurious to the nation, and knowing, by my own experience, that the sentiment is not well founded, I will give you—

'*The Militia of the United States*—They possess the Roman spirit, and when our government shall think proper to give them that organization and discipline of which they are susceptible, they will perform deeds that will emulate those of the legions led by Marcellus and Scipio.'

And where may we look for a more honorable testimony to the value and efficiency of a well-regulated and disciplined militia? It certainly becomes those who would impute to Gen. Harrison a disregard for the feelings of the American people, who are, after all, the only American soldiers, to pause and reflect, ere they cast their anathemas upon one who could utter a sentiment so exalted.

Mr. Chairman, the Ancient Dominion did not forget, in that hour of general gratulation, one of her gallant sons; and, sir, she could never, no, never, even in the darkest hour of party violence, forget the father of that son. No, sir, while her own annals, while the great charter of our political liberty remains, the name of Benjamin Harrison will be associated with that of Jefferson, of Randolph, and of Henry.

Sir, permit me to quote from the Richmond Enquirer, when the news of Proctor's defeat reached that city:

"Gen. Harrison's detailed letter tells us of every thing we wish to know about the officers except himself. He does justice to every one but to Harrison, and the world therefore must do justice to the man who was too modest to be just to himself."

Again, what Virginian has not read the proclamation of the Mayor of Richmond, recommending a general illumination, on the evening of November 24, 1813, when, guided by the common impulse, he told his fellow-

townsmen to 'give vent to their feelings—to think of Perry, who paved the way, and of Harrison, whose intrepid valor had thus nobly achieved the victory!'"* I find this proclamation is dated at ten o'clock on the evening of Sabbath: and well might the spirit of the old Commonwealth have been roused, when, like the mother of the Gracchi, she could point to Harrison, and claim him as one of her children. Well might the sympathy which was then excited in every bosom, have been regarded as the common property of her people, when, like the torch that was passed from hand to hand, in the days of Grecian glory, the holy fire of gratitude pervaded every heart, as it found there its kindred element.

Shall I refer to other states, and their patriotic people, to swell the song of universal triumph, which echoed from every hill, and spread through every valley of this great republic, when the heart of a whole nation throbbed with tumultuous joy? Enough has already been told to rescue, I trust, the memory of the past from this *auto da fe* of party; to place before this house and this nation, what *was* and what *is* to exhibit the startling truth, that no service can be so meritorious, no fame so well deserved, no worth so exalted, but that party necessity may doom its destruction, and party discipline carry out the sentence.

It is, Mr. Chairman, a subject of gratulation, that in this war against character, our own archives have not yet been destroyed; that the bright page of our country's history, the records even of this house, have not been fired by the torch of some modern Omar. There is a memorial of public opinion, that may be seen in this day, of darkness standing out, not, sir, in letters of gold, but in the simple language of a nation's gratitude. Let me refer the committee, and the honorable gentleman also, to the resolution of this house, which passed, without a dissenting voice, in April, 1818, presenting the thanks of Congress to Harrison and Shelby, and authorizing the President to bestow on each of them a gold medal for their gallantry at the Thames.

Thus, Mr. Chairman, have I followed the gentleman from the Wabash to the Thames. I have concealed nothing, and, I believe, spoken naught but what the occasion required. The mass of materials from which I have gleaned the incidents I have presented, is full of interest, for, sir, it cannot be exhausted; and if my remarks shall induce any one who hears me to go back to the 'fire and smoke' of past times, I shall feel myself amply rewarded for the effort I have made, as I can then assure myself his views will become clear, and his judgment thoroughly disabused.

Sir, the state I have the honor in part to represent, holds in high estimation the American Navy; within her borders that splendid victory was achieved, which proved to an astonished world that even a British fleet might be conquered. On the bosom of that inland sea, whose waves had never been disturbed but by the strife of the elements, the roar of American cannon first awoke its slumbering waters; and beneath the soil of Ohio, on a beautiful isle of the lake, in the solitude of nature, repose their ashes, who fell fighting under that flag which bore upon its glorious folds the more glorious motto, 'don't give up the ship.' Yes, we hope to preserve one monument, at least, that shall through all future time proclaim

* 5th vol. Niles' Register, 147.

the heroism of the past, and serve to perpetuate the honor of the American arms. Mr. Chairman, the bold spirit who directed that unrivalled battle, and who wherever peril was to be met, threw himself into the breach, has gone to his final account; but he has left a memorial behind him, as like honorable to his exalted generosity and gratifying to the People of the West. I allude to the following extract of a letter written shortly after the victory :

"UNITED STATES' SCHOONER ABIEL." }
September 15, 1813. }

SIR : The very great assistance in the action of the 10th inst. derived from those men you were pleased to send on board the squadron, renders it my duty to return you my sincere thanks for so timely a reinforcement, (in fact, I may say, sir, without these men the *victory could not have been achieved*,) and equally to assure you that they behaved as became good soldiers and seamen. Those who were under my immediate observation evinced great ardor and bravery.* Very respectfully,

OLIVER H. PERRY.

Maj. Gen. W. H. HARRISON."

Sir, the people of Ohio have been told, upon this floor, that injustice was done to the militia of that State by the commanding general; that their motives were impugned and their efficiency denied. To sustain the assertion, a letter of Gen. Harrison's to the Secretary of War has been referred to, dated in March, 1813, in which he speaks of the dismay and disinclination to the service which appeared to prevail in "the new draughts from Ohio;" alludes to the militia who served during the previous winter in the highest terms; and goes on to remark that he has no doubt that a sufficient number of good men could be procured. He recommends that they should be mounted, and, if sanctioned by that Department, "Kentucky would furnish some regiments that would not be inferior to those who fought at the Raisin." To this letter, sir, we are pointed, and asked to sustain the gentleman in the charges he has made; nay, further, as if he gathered confidence by reiterating the accusation, he tells us the people of Ohio cannot, and will not, submit to such imputations; that they will reject any man who has done them, as he asserts, such injustice.

Sir, upon this part of his attack, the gentleman, if not in the "fire," is in the "smoke;" and, as the clouds clear up, I trust he will grope his way out of the darkness. Before I reply to the influences he attempts to draw from the letter to which he alludes, let me ask him to recite the official letters of Washington during the Revolution, and read the strong language he used in relation to the efficiency of new recruits; no matter, sir, from what state they came, or in what service they were engaged; let him cast his eye upon the communication made to Congress on the 24th of September, 1776, from Harlem height; and I would also commend the extract to those gentlemen from New York, who have evinced during this evening, so much anxiety to assist in the destruction of one who may stand in the way of their chosen leader. *Niles' Register, '63.

dence upon militia, (says Gen. W.) is assuredly resting upon a broken staff; men just dragged from the tender scenes of domestic life; unaccustomed to the din of arms; totally unacquainted with every kind of military skill; which, being followed by a want of confidence in themselves when opposed to troops regularly trained, disciplined, and appointed, superior in knowledge, and superior in arms, makes them timid and ready to fly from their own shadows."

Now, sir, if the gentleman from Kentucky should in an unguarded moment, rise in his place, and accuse the Father of his Country with injustice to the men of other days, and on such evidence as I have just furnished, appeal to the people for their sanction upon his effort, what might he expect? What could he hope for? As well might he endeavor to shut out the light of Heaven, or to interrupt the motion of this globe, by the touch of his finger. Again, I will come down to our memory: The gentleman is now, and always has been, an ardent supporter of our venerable President, and yet he cannot have forgotten that pregnant passage in Gen. Jackson's official despatch of January 9, 1815, wherein he charged the 'Kentucky reinforcements' to have 'ingloriously fled, drawing after them, by their example, the remainder of the force, and thus yielding to the enemy a most fortunate position.' Here, sir, a most blighting accusation was charged upon the people of the gentleman's own State; and yet the Hero of New Orleans received, in 1828, the vote of Kentucky. I make no comment upon this fact, but merely entreat the gentleman to reflect upon what his own Commonwealth did, before he asserts that Ohio will abandon the hero of the Thames and of Tippecanoe.

Sir, I regard the paternal care that the gentleman has seen fit to feel for Ohio, as gratuitous; we ask none of his assistance in the management of our internal concerns; nor have we so far degenerated, as to invoke aid from any state, North or South, to control our political opinions. We feel, sir, a debt of gratitude that we can never repay, for the protection received from our Kentucky brethren, from its infancy until the close of the late war; they poured out their blood for us, and the character, the value, the perpetuity of all our institutions they have contributed not only to establish, but to their disinterested sacrifices we are essentially indebted for each and every of the blessings we now enjoy.

But neither the rewards nor the punishments, the gold nor the censure of selfish, heartless and reckless politicians, can affect the people of Ohio: they know what is due to themselves, and are not unmindful of what is expected from men who have not passed under the yoke of party. In the freshness, the vigor, and generosity of their feelings, they may sometimes admit, from kindness, what could never be extracted by fear, or obtained by fraud; but they will never. I must assure the gentleman, and all others who may calculate the chances of political warfare, permit themselves to be regarded as a marketable commodity, to be bought or sold in the shambles of any party. Sir, my constituents and I feel that I speak but the sentiments of my state: are not to be bought and cast into the furnace; they will never suffer their strength to be shorn, nor their souls to be fettered; they know the siren voice of the political Delilah,

and spurn the shackles, ay, the golden shackles of modern times, as the strong man of old burst the bonds of ancient treachery. Yes, they have gained from this example a useful lesson; they never will suffer their moral vision to be so far obscured as to 'grind in the prison-house' at the behest of any master; and, more than all, they never can become so degraded by the influence of office, or of power, that when deprived of all self-respect, humbled, disgraced, and contemptible, the mere sport and mockery of unprincipled leaders, the only privilege which remains will be to pull down the pillars of the Constitution, that all may perish in the wreck.

I make no comparison between the candidates for the next Presidency: that task I leave to others; I am contented to rest the whole question with the American people; my object is that of defence, not attack. I have attempted to perform the office of an American citizen, not of a political partizan; and such, I trust, will ever be my conduct while I hold a seat upon this floor. I am content to act out my part in this forum, and shall not descend into the arena to mingle in the gladiatorial strife of contending factions—it is unworthy the representatives of a free People, and lessens our own self-respect. Sir, in the amphitheatre at Rome, did the Roman Senator contend with the Numidian lion, or the Asiatic tiger? No; that duty was left to the subjected Thracian—the field of public honor was the Senate-house. Let us profit by the example.

When, Mr. Chairman, Gen. Harrison expressed himself in the language to which so much exception is taken, it was truly a period of darkness and dismay. The whole frontier of Ohio was threatened by the enemy, confident in their strength, and proud with recent success; the people had been harassed by toil, and borne down by privation; to use the eloquent language of Ames, 'in the daytime their path through the forest was ambushed, and the darkness of midnight glittered with the blaze of their dwellings—when, where they fathers, the blood of their sons fattered the corn-field—when, where they mothers, the war-whoop awoke the sleep of the cradle.' Yes, it was an hour when

"There was silence still as death,
And the bravest he d his breath
For a time."

Under the excitement of such a scene, impressed with the necessity of prompt and energetic action, and realizing the weight of the responsibility which rested upon him as controlling and directing the defence of that extended territory, Gen. Harrison did not disguise his sentiments; and, sir, they were such as had often been more strongly expressed by the most distinguished and beloved commanders in our service. Sir, the people of Ohio fully understood the character of their defender, and appreciated, with impartial justice, the course he pursued; and, sir, with a full knowledge of all the alleged injustices which the gentleman from Kentucky insists had been done to him, they volunteered under their former leader, and crowded by thousands to his banner. Until their frontier was finally rescued from danger, and victory crowned our arms at the Thames, the citizen-soldiers of that noble State followed the fortunes, and participated in the triumphs of William Henry Harrison. It is not for

me to express, even in guarded terms, an opinion as to the future course of the freemen of Ohio, when they are called to exercise a solemn political duty; they know their privileges, and will preserve them in their purity: they need no foreign counsel to assist them in judgment, and will never submit to any dictation. I leave with them the keeping of their own consciences; and I will answer for it, they will do nothing unworthy the name or the character of independent American citizens.

Sir, I must be permitted to say, in justice to the old and tried friends of the President, that no sentiment is uttered by them, so far as my knowledge has extended, but of kindness and honorable feeling toward that distinguished citizen whose well-earned fame I have, in my humble manner, essayed to sustain. They regarded that fame as the common property of the whole country, as a page upon the annals of the Union, to obliterate which would be to blot out part of our common history. But, Mr. Chairman, the late converts to *the party*, those who, like the followers of a camp, have never fought for victories nor exposed themselves to defeat, who have made no sacrifices, nor given a word of cheer in the hour of trial—in their zeal for future promotion, and in the hope of swelling the roll of the faithful at another period—these, sir, vulture-like, have sharpened their beaks for this carnival of blood. From such enemies Gen. Harrison has nothing to expect; and, let me tell them, he has nothing to fear. Such enemies, if in the great political conflict that is soon to be fought, whether defeated or successful, would, in their appetite for the spoils, strip the dead and the wounded of their own army ere they left the battle-field.—I must acquit the gentleman from Kentucky from the suspicion of being a late convert; he has always been, I am assured, a decided, a devoted friend of the present Executive; and I could not have expected that he would have pursued the course he has from the estimate I have formed of the generosity of his character. Even now, I regard the observations he has made as the result of impulse rather than reflection. He is yet young, the frost of age has not yet whitened his brow, nor time's wrinkles furrowed his cheek; but the hour will come, when, in the solitude of his own mind, he must look back on the scenes of the last few days: when, perchance, the prattling child upon his knee will read the record of this House, and ask why it was that an old war-worn soldier became the object of so much censure. If the gentleman can reply to such a question in the same spirit he has spoken on this floor, I shall be disappointed in my estimate of human nature. We are told by the Irish bard, who has but unveiled the heart, that there may be

“A fatal remembrance, a sorrow that throws
Its black shade alike o’er our joys and our woes;
O’er which life nothing brighter nor darker can fling,
For which joy had no blame, and affliction no sting.”

But, sir, the gentleman has not the merit of originality in his censure; the epithets he has used are not of modern growth, they have been dug up from the ruins of former attacks; their form is not new, nor is their point even improved. And, at the present time, the ground is pre-occupied by a citizen of New York, who has, in the decline of his life, and the bitterness of his disappointed ambition, scattered his arrows with an un-

sparing hand; but he cannot reach his mark. Better had it been that he should have rested satisfied with his Newburg letters, and the memorable resolution of his brother officers, passed at New Windsor, 15th of March, 1783; better even so. But have been that he had been content with the chance which is part to him in the "Memories of Wilkinson;" and still better had he received the military honors which were gathered in such profusion when this Capitol was in flames, and the archives of our Republic destroyed by a foe whose step never should have profaned our soil. I know not why at this juncture there is such a resurrection, not of what elevates and honors the country, but rather tends to degrade it. It is not for me to assign the motive why the meridian of Albany is selected as the place of attack, of trial, and of execution. I leave the solution of this with those who may be in the secret, and ask them to account for the strange coincidence between the publication of the "Sketches" and that of another work, at Hartford, professing to be the biography of a distinguished politician. Sir, are praise and censure, flattery and abuse, to be mingled up to gratify or improve the public taste, or is it that no political elevation can be hoped for, until every rival is disposed of, no matter by what means?

Mr. Chairman, it does not become me to ask who it is that has conjured up from the dead, like the sorceress of old, this haggard skeleton of buried slander; whose magical wand has beckoned this ghost from the realms of shade. I knew that sea and land would be compassed, but I could not have believed that even the most devoted partisan would have wandered upon the banks of Styx, and held communion with shadows. I see, now, that fancy and fact are alike to be used; that the weapons of party warfare are not selected by any known rule, but are chosen at random, and he who employs them most dexterously is regarded as an adept in political tactics. Sir, the doomed victim must be laid low; and whether he falls fighting on the last battlement of freedom, or like the bird of Jupiter, the shaft which is to pierce him is to be winged by a feather from his own plume, it is all one, the sacrifice must be made.

Sir, before I conclude, I must be permitted to recur to the early history of Ohio, to which I have already once alluded. It was when that now populous State was an unbroken forest, when her now fertile soil was untilled, and the stars of Heaven shone upon the solitude of a trackless wilderness, that Gen. Harrison, then in the flower of his youth, left the home of his infancy, the comforts, the pleasures, the consolation of family and friends, and united himself with the army of the Northwest, immediately after the defeat of St. Clair. It was no momentary impulse which prompted him to cross yon rugged mountains, and hazard his life in an enterprise, where none but his immediate associates could witness his valor; and if he fell, none but his fellow soldiers could perform the last sad offices of friendship. It was but the germ of that chivalrous spirit which, in after years, expanded in fullness and power, and in the midst of trial, and danger, whether cheered by the voice of friends, or assailed by the bitterness of enemies, has proudly sustained him.

Sir, in December 1793, Harrison, then lieutenant, was despatched with other officers, by Gen. Wayne, to take possession of the battle ground of

St. Clair. The duty was performed, and the remains of more than 600 brave men, who fell in that bloody rencontre, were collected together and honorably interred. Upon this spot Fort Recovery was then erected, which afterwards became celebrated in the annals of Western warfare.

In the decisive victory at the rapids of the Maumee, in 1793, Harrison served as the aid-de-camp of Wayne, and received the most flattering encomiums from his commander: that victory, sir, was obtained under the guns of a British fort, against a savage force, led by warlike and talented chiefs, and aided by their British allies. Here our youthful soldier laid the foundation of that military skill which afterwards, on the same field, in the trenches at Fort Meigs, displayed itself in all its lustre. Sir, the siege of that fortress is a bright era in our annals; it was there the militia of Ohio behaved like veteran soldiers, and acquired imperishable honors; it was there the intrepid Kentucky volunteers came to the rescue, and freely poured out their blood. Sir, there is a tie of brotherhood between Ohio and Kentucky, that cannot, that must not be severed; we have been joined in solemn, in holy fraternity, by all that is precious in self-sacrifice, and all that is lofty in gratitude, and no time, no change, must sunder us.

Mr. Chairman, I feel that I shall conclude my remarks: the deep, the kind attention of the committee, for the long period I have tresspassed upon their patience, demand my sincere acknowledgements, and they are, let me assure them, freely bestowed.

Sir, I have not time to detail the civil services of Gen. Harrison; it is no part of my purpose to do so, though the materials for a proud exhibition of all the qualities of the statesman are at hand; they are ample, they are, I can assure the gentleman, already known to the people, and will become more familiar as that people rising above party trammels, shall review the history of the past with the freedom that belongs to every patriot citizen.

Sir, the reputation of the American soldier is the property of the whole Union: no portion of the wide confederacy can exclusively appropriate it. "Far as the winds can waft, or billows roll," every true American will claim an interest in the fame of those who have conferred glory on his country: there is no clime so barbarous, no Government so despotic, but has heard the story of our triumphs; and in the darkest hour of human liberty, when, under the rule of the Muscovite, or the tyranny of the Turks, the heroic struggles against power have been crushed, and the energies of the soul subdued, the last hope of freedom has been killed at her altar in the new, let us, sir, preserve the temple, and the flame, that like the eternal fire of the vestal, should burn there forever. Let us not anticipate that fearful period when our land shall present an unbroken scene of 'darkness' and 'gloominess,' when, like morning spread upon the mountains, our sky shall be hung with blackness. We live in a momentous era, and on us is imposed a tremendous duty; if we are faithful to ourselves, our country, and our God, our Government will still go on as a giant in his strength; but if we are recreant to our solemn obligations, and, in the paltry strife of party, disregard the claims of those who have nobly struggled to sustain our Republic in her infancy as well as her strength, then, sir, the pillars of our political edifice are already shaken, and, ere long, the proud, the once glorious structure will fall to the dust.

LIFE OF GENERAL HARRISON.

THE administration of Gen. Jackson is drawing to a close, and the PEOPLE are once more called upon to choose their Chief Magistrate. The question, who shall be his successor, involves in its solution the policy and character of the Government for many years to come.

A struggle is about to take place between the governors and the governed, between the office holders and the People—between the trainbands of power and the independent Citizens of the Country. On one hand we have presented to us the name of *Martin Van Buren* of New York, as the candidate of the office holders; on the other hand the name of **WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON**, of Ohio, as the candidate of the People.

It is the object of the following brief sketch to revive in the memory of the old, and present to the notice of the young, the character and services of the candidate of the people. For this purpose nothing more is necessary than brevity and truth. It forms no part of the object either to affect the graces of composition, or to palm upon the public a mere eulogy of a favorite candidate, but rather to present to them a simple unadorned narrative, the value of which shall consist in its historic truth.

The following sketch is drawn from the public records and sources of the most authentic information, and may be relied upon as perfectly accurate in its details.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON was born in the year 1773, in the state of Virginia, and was the third son of *Benjamin Harrison* of that state. His father was one of the patriots of the Revolution, a member of the old revolutionary Congress, one of the *signers of the Declaration of Independence*, and subsequently Governor of the state of Virginia.

Benjamin Harrison died in 1791, when his son *William* was about 18 years of age; so that the early period of his life when impresssions are deepest, was passed in the best school of politics and with the best models before him.

After his father's death, he in the first instance, by the advice of his friends, turned his attention to the study of medicine. At this period however a general state of excitement and alarm prevailed along the whole frontier bordering on the Ohio river, from the depredations and murders committed by the Indians, and young **HARRISON** participating in the patriotic feeling of the times, resolved to enter the service of his country.

Some idea may be formed of the posture of affairs and of the nature and service he was to render, when it is recollected that it was on the 4th of November in the year 1791, that Gen. St. Clair with an army of 1400 men was defeated by the Indians with the loss of nearly 1000 men in killed and wounded, including some of his best officers.

He received his first appointment as Ensign in the first regiment of Infantry from Gen. *Washington* in November 1791, and was subsequently appointed by him in February 1793 a Lieutenant in the first sub-legion. In July 1797, he was appointed a captain in the first regiment of Infantry by *John Adams*, then President of the United States. This appointment however he resigned in the following year, and determined to abandon the profession of arms and seek employment and distinction in the walks of civil life.

During the intervening period of seven years from 1791 to 1798, while encountering the toils, the privations and the perils of Indian and border warfare, he

served under the celebrated General *Anthony Wayne*, and was selected by him as one of his Aids-de camp. From this distinguished Commander he received the highest marks of confidence and esteem, and was with him at the battle of the Miami, in August 1794, when he achieved a signal victory over his savage foes.

His employment and his services have hitherto been of a military character, but in the year 1798, when he was about 25 years of age, he received from Jno. Adams, then President of the United States, the appointment of Secretary of the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio.

In this post, which was of a civil nature altogether, he rendered himself so popular, by his urbanity, intelligence, and propriety of deportment, that he was elected by the citizens of that Territory, their first delegate to the Congress of the United States, and took his seat in the House of Representatives at the commencement of the first session of the sixth Congress in December 1799.

Being the delegate from a Territory and not the representative of a State, he was admitted to a seat on the floor of Congress with the right of debating, but not of voting on any question.

His first efforts were directed to the accomplishment of a matter in which the vital interests of his constituents, particularly the poorer class of them, were concerned. This was to procure a change in the mode of disposing of the public lands, which from the size of the tracts sold, and places of sale, put it out of the power of the poorer emigrants to purchase them; throwing as a consequence the whole business in the hands of speculators, and thus retarding the settlement of the country. By dint of industry and perseverance he accomplished the object, notwithstanding the powerful opposition which the measure met with, from the capitalists of the country.

At this session of Congress, the North Western Territory, which had hitherto embraced all the country lying to the North west of the Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and the territories of Michigan, and what is now called the Northwestern Territory, was divided into two parts; so much of it as comprised the present state of Ohio, and Michigan Territory, continued to retain the old name, and the rest comprising the present states of Indiana, and Illinois, and the present Northwest Territory, was called Indiana Territory.

The Act of Congress which was approved by the President on the 7th May 1800, became a law on that day, and on the 12th May 1800, five days afterwards, *William Henry Harrison* was nominated by him to the Senate as the first Governor of the Indiana Territory, in compliance with the earnest and express wishes of the people of that Territory. On the following day the nomination was confirmed by the Senate. We have been thus particular in noting this appointment, because the adversaries of Mr. Harrison have had the audacity to declare that his appointment was one of those usually called the midnight appointments of John Adams. Whereas in truth it was made ten months before the expiration of his term of office, which closed on the 4th March 1801; and six months before even the election took place which was to settle the question as to his successor—Mr. Harrison was at this time about 27 years of age.

If we reflect for a moment on the nature of the powers, which were conferred by this appointment, and the delicate situation, in which he was placed, from his immediate connexion with the Indians, fickle, treacherous, and prone to war as they are, it is difficult to conceive a stronger proof of the estimation in which he was held, and of the high opinion entertained of his moderation, and capacity for civil government.

By this appointment, he became commander-in-chief of the Militia, with the right of appointing all officers in it, below the rank of general officers. Before the organization of the general assembly, he was to appoint such magistrates and other civil officers, in each county or township, as he should find necessary, for the preservation of peace and good order, and together with the Judges, to

adopt and publish such laws of the original state, criminal and civil, as they should think necessary and suited to the circumstances of the district, possessing himself alone the power to lay out the counties and townships. After the organization of the general assembly, he was to form part of it, having an absolute veto upon all their proceedings, with the power to convene, prorogue, and dissolve the assembly, when he thought proper. To these various powers was added that of Superintendent of Indian affairs.

The term of office was limited by law to three years, and at the expiration therefore of any one term, unless his conduct had been perfectly satisfactory to the Government and to the people over whom he presided, he might have been superseded without the harshness of removal from office. Yet he administered the civil government of that country, for the term of *thirteen* years from the year 1800 to 1813, being reappointed *twice* by Mr. Jefferson, namely, in 1803 and 1806, and once by Mr. Madison in 1809.

He is thus seen to have received the strongest marks of confidence and approbation, from three different Presidents, and four different Senates of the United States.

In the year 1809, the house of Representatives of Indiana Territory unanimously requested his reappointment in the following terms extracted from the resolution: "They cannot forbear recommending to and requesting of the President and Senate, most earnestly in their own name, and in the name of their constituents, the appointment of their present Governor Wm. H. Harrison—because he possesses the good wishes and affection of a great majority of his fellow citizens;—because they believe him sincerely attached to the Union, the prosperity of the United States, and the administration of its government;—because they believe him, in a superior degree capable of promoting the interest of our Territory, from long experience and laborious attention to its concerns, from his influence with the Indians and wise and disinterested management of that department, and because they have confidence in his *virtues, talents and republicanism.*"

But in addition to these extensive powers, he was in the year 1803, appointed by Mr. Jefferson, with the advice and consent of the Senate, "commissioner to enter into any treaties which may be necessary with any Indian tribes, north-west of the Ohio, and within the territory of the United States, on the subject of their boundaries or lands." Under the power thus given, during the period of his civil administration as Governor, he negotiated alone, thirteen treaties with different tribes for extinguishing their title to lands within that extensive, important and fertile region of country.

Until the year 1811, Gen. Harrison had been able from his knowledge of the Indian character and skillful management of their affairs, to keep his savage neighbors in check, and to preserve the peace and security of the frontier settlements. About this period however, our affairs with England drawing to a crisis, the British traders availed themselves of the natural turbulence and love of plunder which characterizes the Indian, to instigate them to acts of violence and depredation, and actually furnished them with arms, and equipments for war.

To their influence was added that of the Shawnese Prophet, O-li-wa-chi-ca, the brother of the celebrated Tecumseh, and these deluded tribes began to renew those scenes of desolation and blood, in the conflagration of dwellings, and the murder of whole families, which had before drawn down upon them, the vengeance of the American people.

In November 1811, Gov. Harrison, with the troops under his command, proceeded to the Prophet's town, on the Wabash, at the junction with the Tippecanoe, for the purpose of restoring tranquility.

After a march of thirty days, he arrived there on the 5th of November, and the Indians, as usual, met him with protestations of friendship, and the promise to hold a council the following day for the settlement of all com-

plaints. On the following day however in the gloom of a dark and cloudy morning they assailed his camp with savage yells. But they did not as they expected find him unprepared. The army had been encamped in the order of battle, and the troops reposed with their clothes and accoutrements on, and their arms at their sides—a desperate conflict ensued, in which the Indians manifested uncommon ferocity, but which ended in their total defeat, and they abandoned their town, leaving behind them their provisions and almost every thing they possessed.

The President, Mr. MADISON, in communicating the despatches to Congress, expressed himself as follows: “Congress will see with satisfaction the dauntless spirit and fortitude victoriously displayed by every description of the troops engaged, as well as the collected firmness which distinguished their commander on an occasion requiring the utmost exertions of valor and discipline.”

The Legislature of Indiana in their address to Governor HARRISON, noticed the event in the following terms—“The House of Representatives of Indiana Territory in their own name and in behalf of their constituents, most cordially reciprocate the congratulations of your Excellency on the glorious result of the late sanguinary conflict with the Shawnese Prophet, and the tribes of Indians confederated with him; when we see displayed in behalf of our country, not only the consummate abilities of the General, but the heroism of the man; and when we take into view the benefits which must result to that country from those exertions, we cannot for a moment withhold our meed of applause.”

The subject was likewise noticed by the Legislature of Kentucky, notwithstanding the loss she had sustained in some of her most valued citizens, in the following terms—“*Resolved*, that in the late campaign against the Indians on the Wabash, Gov. W. H. HARRISON has, in the opinion of this Legislature, behaved like a hero, a patriot, and a General; and for his cool, deliberate, skilful and gallant conduct in the battle of Tippecanoe, he deserves the warmest thanks of the nation.”

On the 18th of June 1812 war was declared by the United States against Great Britain, and Governor HARRISON was in that year appointed a Brigadier General in the Army of the United States.

In the course of the year, General Hull, to whom had been confided the command of the North-western army, made his shameful surrender at Detroit, putting the British in possession of his whole force, and of a large region of country. This mortifying and disastrous event, gave new zeal and hopes to the savage foe; the intelligence was spread with rapidity, from the Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, and the torch of war was lighted along the whole frontier of the United States.

In the surprise, alarm, grief and indignation of the moment, *public sentiment* pointed to General Harrison, as the man, who was equal to the exigencies of the occasion, and accordingly to him was confided, as Commander in chief, the difficult and dangerous duty of repairing the mischiefs which had been inflicted upon the country.

This appointment was conferred upon him by Mr. Madison, at the earnest request and recommendation of the west, including Governor SHELLEY and HENRY CLAY. His first efforts were to assemble and organize a suitable army. In May 1813, he sustained a siege for thirteen days, at Fort Meigs, conducted by a superior combined force of British troops and Indians under General Proctor and Tecumseh, from which they were repulsed with signal success. During the siege 1800 shells and balls were fired upon the fort, as well as a continual discharge of small arms maintained.

In the fall of the year, the glorious victory of Perry on Lake Erie, having given the Americans the command of the Lake, General HARRISON determined to invade Canada, and carry the war into the enemy's country.

His troops were accordingly transported to the Canadian shore, by the victo-

rious fleet of Perry, and having landed below Malden and taken possession of that place, he detached a force to take possession of Detroit, and then pursued his flying enemy to the banks of the Thames.

Here on the 5th of October 1813, he found Genl. Proctor, with upwards of 600 regulars, and 1200 Indians under Tecumseh, posted to receive him. They occupied a narrow strip of land, with the river on one side and a swamp on the other; their left resting upon the river, supported by artillery, their right upon the swamp covered by the whole Indian force.

Occupying thus the whole space, a more extended front could not be presented to them, than their own, and no advantage taken of superiority of numbers if any existed.

By a bold and brilliant manœuvre the fate of the battle was instantly decided. General Harrison ordered the Regiment of mounted infantry to be drawn up in close column and at full speed to charge the enemy. The shock was irresistible. The British troops gave way on all sides, and 600 regulars including 25 officers laid down their arms and became prisoners of war. The Indians continued to fight with great and desperate courage, but were finally routed, and their celebrated Chief Tecumseh slain in the field.

In this decisive battle, the venerable Governor SHELLEY, a hero of the Revolution, commanded under General HARRISON, the Kentucky Volunteers—General CASS, the present Secretary of War, and Commodore PERRY acted as his volunteer Aids.

All the official papers of General Proctor were taken, and he himself escaped with great difficulty from his pursuers: property to the amount of *a million of dollars* was captured; and three pieces of brass cannon, trophies of the Revolutionary war, which had been taken from the British at Saratoga and York, and surrendered by Hull at Detroit, were recovered.

This brilliant achievement, in which the American army was composed of volunteer militia infantry, one Regiment of volunteer mounted infantry, and only 120 regulars, put a period to the strife of arms in that quarter. The din of war was hushed; the husbandman returned to his plough, and the peaceful occupations of civil life were resumed.

Here ends the military career of General Harrison, and that tide and that character which was accepted when duty and the circumstances of the times required it, was cheerfully laid aside, when there was no longer a patriotic motive for its retention.

In the year 1816, Mr. Harrison was elected to Congress as a member of the House of Representatives from the state of Ohio. In that station he served until the year 1819, when he was chosen a member of the State Senate.

In 1821 he was elected a Senator of the United States, by the Legislature of Ohio, and continued to serve with ability, in that distinguished body, until the year 1828; when he was appointed by Mr. Adams Envoy Extraordinary, and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Columbia.

There he was received in the first instance with that attention which was due to his distinguished character, and to the Minister of a great Republic; but before he had the opportunity of rendering any important services to his country, he was recalled by *President Jackson* to make room for some *claimant upon "the spoils of victory."*

Since the period of his return to the United States in 1829, he has continued to pursue his civil occupations at home.

William Henry Harrison is now about 62 years of age, but from his active and temperate habits, he enjoys in their full vigor, his moral and physical powers. In his manners he is plain, frank, and unassuming; in his disposition cheerful, kind, and generous. With opportunities of amassing wealth, during his long administration of Indian affairs, while Governor of Indiana, unless re-

strained by the most delicate and scrupulous integrity. yet he came out of the service of his country with diminished means.

He is a man of liberal education, of broad and statesman-like views and ardent patriotism. In a speech delivered by him, at a public dinner given to him in Madison, Indiana, in August 1830, after explaining in an able and satisfactory manner, the importance of extending the home market, and protecting the industry of our people, from foreign competition, we find him giving utterance to the following sentiments—"I believe that the continuance of the tariff is essential to the prosperity of the Western states; but I should be among the first to propose its modification, or repeal, if it is found to produce to the Southern states, the ruinous consequences they predict. No honest man can enjoy a prosperity founded upon the sufferings of a friend and brother."

During the whole period of his Military service, amidst all the privations and sufferings of a war carried on in an uninhabited country covered with swamps and woods, he never *caused a militia soldier to be punished*. Yet no General ever commanded the confidence and obedience of the militia to a greater extent—on being asked how he had managed to gain the control over them which he possessed, he answered: "*By treating them with affection and kindness—by always recollecting that they are my fellow citizens, whose feelings I was bound to respect, and sharing on every occasion the hardships they were obliged to undergo.*"

In September 1829, while residing at Bogota as Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to the Republic of Columbia, he addressed a letter to General Bolivar, at that time President of the Republic, but who it was feared intended to subvert the Republican Government, and assume Despotic power.—The object was to dissuade him from taking so fatal a step; and the whole letter is replete with the soundest views and the most noble sentiments. Towards its conclusion is to be found the following paragraph—

"To yourself the advantage would be as great as to the country; like acts of mercy, the blessings would be reciprocal; your personal happiness secured, and your fame elevated to a height which would have but a single competition in the estimation of posterity. In bestowing the palm of merit the world has become wiser than formerly. The successful warrior is no longer regarded as entitled to the first place in the temple of fame. Talents of this kind have become too common, and too often used for mischievous purposes to be regarded as they once were. In this enlightened age the mere hero of the field, and the successful leader of armies may for a moment attract attention. But it will be such as is bestowed upon the passing meteor, whose blaze is no longer remembered when it is no longer seen. *To be esteemed eminently great, it is necessary to be eminently good.* The qualities of the Hero and the General must be devoted to the advantage of mankind, before he will be permitted to assume the title of their benefactor: and the station he will hold in their regard and affections will depend not upon the number and splendor of his victories, but upon the results and the use he may make of the influence he acquires by them."

We thus perceive that the influence of that school in which he had been reared had not been lost upon him. Born and bred among the heroes of the Revolution, drawing his principles fresh from the fountain of American liberty, his whole life has been spent in the service of his country.

But great as his military services have been, they do not compare in duration or importance with his civil labors. Out of a period of thirty-seven years of public employment, eight or nine have been spent in bearing arms amidst the perils of Indian and British warfare, but more than twenty in high and responsible offices of civil trust.

He has been nominated by the people not because of his military services and talents, but because he is possessed of *civic attainments, experience and mod-*



eration of character, which make him a suitable and safe Candidate for the office of President.

Nothing could present a stronger contrast than the character and qualifications of WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, the *Candidate of the People*, and those of Mr. Van Buren, the *Candidate of the Office holders*; the latter of whom has spent his life amidst petty intrigues and in the mire of New York politics, remarkable alike for a crafty concealment of purposes and opinions and unremitting efforts at personal aggrandizement.

On the 30th of September, 1835, there was a Buck-Eye celebration at Cincinnati of the anniversary of the first naming of Fort Hamilton, where Cincinnati now stands. A number of eloquent addresses were made, among others, Gen'l. ROBERT T. LYTLE, formerly a Van Buren member of Congress, made a speech, from which we take the following extract in relation to Gen'l. HARRISON, the candidate for President.

"It is true, that that gentleman and myself are now, as we have for some time been, opposed to each other in some of our views, perhaps in most, as to the public men and measures of the day: but were we as widely separated as the poles, I can neither be made to forget his virtues, nor withhold from him just commendation for his many eminent services. Sir, I would be a traitor to my own nature, if I found myself capable of disparaging the claims of a public servant so eminent, so well tried, and whose life has been a history of so much usefulness and gallantry, as that of Gen. HARRISON. Rather than rob the temples of that time-worn and justly honored public servant of a single laurel, I would choose, in justice and gratitude, to heap chaplets on his brow. Sir, the miserable spirit of partisan warfare and detraction, as displayed by most of the journals, on both sides, nay on *all* sides of the question for the Presidential succession, I deprecate from my heart. The spirit that will admit of no good, out of the mere party range, and which dooms to infamy all that cannot reach his standard of party purity—a spirit which invades the peace and perverts the purpose of social harmony and union—all good men should frown upon. 'Render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's,' is the injunction of Divine Wisdom: and in all cases where we depart from this principle, the degradation and the evil are to be measured only by the extent of its infraction."